

COLLABORATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – October 22, 2020 at 3:00 pm
City Council Chambers

Committee Members:

Gene Merrill (Chair) Absent
Bryan Hawkins (Vice Chair) Absent
Tripp Androy – Virtual
Shauna Bland
Sam Engel- late Virtual
Ron Goss - Virtual
Kenny Houck – Virtual
Josie Molloy
Colene Martin
Cameron Camp
Bob Schaller- Virtual
Paul Lonquist- Absent
Kim Dickson- Chair (fill in)
Casey Alderson - Absent
Daniel Mancuso - Virtual

Government Liaisons:

Susan Seereiter – City Business Advocate
Darin Fowler – County Commissioner -late
Jean Ann Miles – City of Cave Junction
Dennis Roler – City Councilor- Absent

Guests:

Marta Tarantsey- Virtual
Angelique Stewart (County grant writer) Virtual
Colleen DeShazer – Virtual (Verizon)

1. Roll Call

a. Chair Dickson officially opened meeting at 3:00 and took roll call.

2. Public Comment:

a. none

3. Approval of Minutes:

a. Approval of minutes from September 24, 2020.

Motion

Member Martin moved and Member Camp seconded the motion to approve the minutes from August 20, 2020 as presented. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”:

Committee Members: Molloy, Dickson, Hawkins, Engel, Bland, Martin, Camp, Goss, Schaller and Mancuso. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: Houck and Androy.

Absent: Members Alderson, Lonquist, Merrill and Hawkins.

The motion passed.

4. Work Session Items:

a. Cell Towers and Internet

- Member (Chair) Dickson started off by setting the tone of the importance of every committee member perspective.
- Member Camp gave a background on the continued conversation that the committee has been having regarding internet connectivity.
- There are underutilized cell towers in the area. The importance of “continued dialog and lean into the process”.
- If we want more access, what does that mean?
- More density and what is the access point that makes the most sense?
- What type of feasibility study would be beneficial?

- There is a group called Friends of Country Living working on broadband for Sunny Valley.
- Broadband sub-committee will resume meetings
- Commissioner Fowler thought a task force would be beneficial and to include Councilor Roler and Member Camp suggested including Marta from Business Oregon.
- Cost was discussed and sub-committee will research further.
- The importance of getting experts in the field will help move the conversation.
- Drone concept was discussed and cell on wheels “COW”
- There are companies that sell this technology.

Motion

Member Martin moved and Member Schaller seconded the motion to consider a partnership between the two cities and entire county to get economic data by initiating a feasibility mapping study to determine geographical needs for broadband. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”:

Committee Members: Molloy, Dickson, Hawkins, Engel, Bland, Martin, Camp, Goss, Schaller and Mancuso. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: Houck and Androy. Absent: Members Alderson, Lonquist, Merrill and Hawkins. The motion passed.

b. Strategic goal setting (City Council)

- Member Dickson directed the conversation to goal setting
- Member Dickson provided a PowerPoint and referred to the Bylaws
- Purpose of the committee is to serve as an advisory to the City of Grants Pass, Cave Junction and Josephine County.
- Responsible for advising on and monitoring the implementation of economic development actions.
- Last years goals had too many to be able to achieve.
- Member Dickson wanted to encourage the committee to scale down goals to actionable items by using SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time bound.
- More discussion followed regarding the bylaw roles and responsibilities.
- Member Engel added the importance of continuing to collaborate with other regional initiatives such as Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) a Jackson and Josephine County All in for Health.
- Member Molloy reminded the committee about the SOREDI One Rogue Valley strategic plan for integration of goals.
- Discussion about the Grants Pass Airport funding is going to be on the City Council workshop agenda for November 23, 2020
- RCC water project is also moving forward.
- As the committee reviewed their previous list, they added more specifics.

6. Information Sharing:

a. Items from Committee Members

- Member Engel brought up the importance of workforce housing as it relates to the tourism industry (the creation of the independent board for Destination Marketing and Economic Development).

b. Items from Councilors and Commissioner

- Commission Fowler expressed concern about how many goals were listed on the CEDC goal sheet.
- Councilor Miles mentioned the election and encouraged everyone to vote.

c. Items from Staff

- None

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting:

- Goal setting
- RCC update
- Innovation Hub

8. Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm

Next scheduled meeting: November 24, 2020

Minutes prepared by Susan Seereiter, City Staff Liaison.